

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 PA-02 ISO-00 DODE-00 H-02 CIAE-00 PM-05
INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00
DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 CEQ-01 IO-14 INRE-00 SSO-00
/096 W

-----044040 071957Z /46

O 071858Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0583
THE WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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USICA

ICA FOR IEU; STATE FOR PA; USINFO FOR ALLEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

REF: (A) USNATO 3559, (B) USNATO 3565

BELOW ARE EXCERPTS FROM QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
WHICH FOLLOWED STATEMENT BY NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS
TO THE PRESS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS TODAY. TEXT OF
STATEMENT IS CONTAINED IN REFTEL A. BEGIN TEXT Q&A
EXCERPTS:

QUESTION: ARE YOU PERSONALLY HAPPY WITH THIS DECISION?

ANSWER: I HAVE FULL UNDERSTANDING FOR THIS DECISION.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN SEE THAT WE CAN GET A
QUID PRO QUO FROM THE SOVIETS OUT OF THIS?

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ANSWER: WELL, YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT IS IMPLIED IN THIS STATE-
MENT. THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT SAYS THAT IT IS A THING
TO BE BARGAINED WITH THE SOVIET UNION. AND, IF THE SOVIET
UNION WERE TO REJECT BARGAINING, THEY WILL HAVE TO TAKE
UNILATERAL ACTIONS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE UNITED
STATES AND THEIR ALLIES CONSTITUTE A STEP FORWARD AND
MIGHT, MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT, MAKE THE PRODUCTION OF THIS

SHELL NECESSARY.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, CAN YOU EXPECT A CLEAR CUT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ON THE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON ISSUE?

ANSWER: MY EXPECTATION IS THAT IN SOME CAPITALS OF THE WORLD THERE WILL BE NO STATEMENT BECAUSE THEY WILL COMPLETELY AGREE WITH IT, AND IN OTHERS THE SPOKESMAN MIGHT SAY SOMETHING. BUT I DO NOT EXPECT GREAT DIFFERENCES WITH WHAT I HAVE SAID NOW.

QUESTION: I MEAN, DO YOU EXPECT A REQUEST BY EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS FOR THE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS TO BE DEPLOYED IN EUROPE?

ANSWER: THE WEAPON CAN ONLY BE DEPLOYED WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE AND IT IS A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DECISION TO MAKE IT OR NOT TO MAKE IT.... THE UNITED STATES IS GOING TO MAKE THE SYSTEMS WHICH WOULD USE THE SHELL -- TO MAKE THEM CAPABLE OF USING IT AT ONCE.

QUESTION: MRS. SECRETARY GENERAL, CAN I ASK YOU, HAS IT CAUSED ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH THE NATO NATIONS THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT TOOK ONE POSITION EARLIER AND NOW HE'S TAKING ANOTHER POSITION?
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ANSWER: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE FACTS ARE SO START AS YOU IMPLY IN YOUR QUESTION. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS PONDERING SINCE SOME TIME TO MAKE IT A BARGAINING THING WITH THE SOVIET UNION.... THERE WAS A LOT OF NEWS, SO CALLED NEWS AROUND IT, BUT I HAVE NOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN ONE POSITION TODAY AND ANOTHER TOMORROW.

I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT AT ONE MOMENT THE UNITED STATES SAID TO THE ALLIES: "WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THIS WEAPON?" THEN THE UNITED STATES LET THEM KNOW THEY WERE CONSIDERING TO MAKE IT A BARGAINING THING WITH THE SOVIET UNION. AND THEN THE REPLY OF QUITE A FEW GOVERNMENTS WAS RATHER FAVORABLE -- NOT OFFICIALLY GIVEN, BUT THAT WAS THE IMPRESSION AGAIN. NOW THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT, AS IS HIS OWN AND UNIQUE RESPONSIBILITY, HAS TAKEN A POSITION WHICH HE HAS NOW MADE PUBLIC.

QUESTION: YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE EUROPEAN ALLIES REACTION. DID YOU SAY THEY MADE FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE REACTIONS?

ANSWER: NO. THEY DID UNDERSTAND THAT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD BARGAINING THING.

QUESTION: BUT, WOULD YOU SAY THAT THERE WAS DISMAY, DISAPPOINTMENT AMONG SOME OF THE EUROPEAN ALLIES IN THIS DECISION?

ANSWER: I WOULD NOT SAY THAT. YOU HAVE READ THE PRESS TOO. THERE WERE SOME RUMORS THAT ANOTHER DECISION MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATED, WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN LESS WELCOME.

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QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, YOU'VE AVOIDED THE PHRASE NEUTRON BOMB, YOU CALLED IT AN ENHANCED RADIATION....

ANSWER: WELL YOU KNOW IT IS A WORD WHICH THE PAPERS INVENTED. IT'S AN ATOMIC DEVICE. ONE PAPER IN AMERICA CALLED IT A NEUTRON BOMB AND THEN SUDDENLY EVERYBODY THOUGHT SOMETHING APOCALYPTIC HAD BEEN INVENTED. THE OFFICIAL NAME IS ENHANCED RADIATION/REDUCED BLAST SHELL....

QUESTION: TO COMPLETE THE QUESTION SIR, I WAS GOING TO ASK HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK THIS RESULTED IN THIS DECISION BEING TAKEN?

ANSWER: NO, NOT THE DECISION. BUT IT HAS CERTAINLY PLAYED

A PART, TO MY MIND, IN THE EXAGGERATED PUBLIC OUTCRY IN SOME QUARTERS AND IN SOME COUNTRIES.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT ASSESSMENT OF THE DETERRENCE OF CURRENT NATO TACTICAL NUCLEAR FORCES
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WITHOUT THE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON?
ANSWER: I WOULD SAY THAT SOME WEAPONS WE HAVE HAVE MORE COLLATERAL EFFECT AND ONE OF THE AIMS OF THE UNITED STATES WAS TO MAKE A WEAPON WHICH WOULD HAVE VERY LITTLE COLLATERAL EFFECT. FOR LESS BLAST EFFECT, EXPLOSIVE EFFECT AND FAR LESS FALL-OUT; NEARLY NO FALL-OUT. THAT IS THE REAL THING YOU SEE.

QUESTION: HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO GET THE SAME DEFENSE EFFECT WITH CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS THAN NATO COULD HAVE HAD WITH THE NEUTRON BOMB?

ANSWER: I'VE NOT THE SLIGHTEST IDEA.

QUESTION: DO YOU EXPECT THE SOVIET UNION TO MAKE SOME DRAMATIC REDUCTIONS OF THEIR NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?

ANSWER: I WISH I COULD BE IN A POSITION TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE KREMLIN AND WHAT THE LEADERS OF THE SOVIET UNION ARE THINKING. I ALWAYS THINK THAT WINSTON CHURCHILL WAS RIGHT. THAT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE SOVIET UNION IS A SECRET SURROUNDED BY MYSTERY AND WRAPED IN AN ENIGMA. SO I CAN'T MAKE ANY PREDICTIONS.

QUESTION: SECRETARY GENERAL, YOU SAY THE WEST WOULD BE BARGAINING AGAINST WHAT (UNINTELLIGIBLE)....

ANSWER: WELL, THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF POSSIBILITIES. AS YOU KNOW THE WEAPON IS A MAXIMUM WEAPON AGAINST ARMOR AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS A MARKED SUPERIORITY IN ARMOR AND IN TANKS. THERE IS THE SS X 20 WHICH IS A RATHER FRIGHTFUL WEAPON. YOU KNOW ABOUT MOBILE MISSILES WHICH CAN REACH,
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I THINK THE WHOLE OF EUROPE -- WHICH THE SOVIET UNION IS DEPLOYING NOW. I'M ONLY GIVEN SOME, BUT I'M NOT THE AUTHORITY TO BARGAIN WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

QUESTION: MR. LUNS, A FEW DAYS AGO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN EAST GERMANY SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THIS COULD BE A BARGAINING CHIP IN FUTURE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. DOES THIS INDICATE TO YOU, HERHAPS, A WILLINGLESS BY THE SOVIETS TO PROCEED NOW?

ANSWER: WELL, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS STATEMENT BEING CONFIRMED BY HIGHER AUTHORITIES IN THE SOVIET UNION. IT MIGHT BE JUST A STRAW IN THE WIND. END EXCERPTS.
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